

State Interagency Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Highline School District Office
Boardroom
15675 Ambaum Blvd., SW
Burien, WA

Attendance:

Members

Sheila Ammons, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Kelli Bohanon, State Lead Agency, Department of Early Learning
Charles Cowan, MD, Service Provider Physician
Commander Victoria Crescenzi, MD, Military
René Denman, Parent
Melinda Dyer, OSPI/Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Sarah Fader, Parent
Kathy Fortner, Service Provider, Neurodevelopmental Center
Marijean Holland, Office of Insurance Commissioner
Christine Johnson, Service Provider, Head Start
Amy Kocher, Parent
Jena Lavik, Parent
Michael Luque, DSHS/Children's Administration (Foster Care)
Dennis Mathews, Service Provider, Education
Robin McIlvaine, DSHS/Children's Mental Health
Maria Nardella, Department of Health
Diane Patterson, Service Provider, Public Health
Linda Rolfe, DDD Director, DSHS
Janet Spybrook, Personnel Preparation
Dani Wykes, Parent

Members Unable to Attend

Maryanne Barnes, Service Provider, Developmental Center
Molly Chavez, Washington Migrant Council
Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, Legislature
Steven Finch, Service Provider, School District
Janet George, Department of Services for the Blind
Lisa LaRue, Department of Early Learning, Child Care
Sharon Reddick, DSHS/Health and Recovery Services Administration (Medicaid)
Bonnie Sandahl, SICC Chair
Kristine Slentz, Personnel Preparation, Higher Education
Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson, Parent
Dawn Williams, Head Start Agency

Others Attending

Bob Hamilton, Deputy Director, Department of Early Learning

Kelli Bohanon, Assistant Director, Partnership & Collaboration Division, Dept of Early Learning

Cecile Lindquist, Chair of SICC Public Policy

Chris Morris, South Sound Parent to Parent, Thurston County

Kerianne Christie, SICC Family Leadership and Involvement Committee

Debbie Jackson, PAVE

Janie Nelson-Clark, Concerned Citizens, Jefferson County

David Maltman, WA State DDC

Rachael Watters, Spokane Regional Health District

Athena Elrod, Pierce County

Bobbie Leland, Center for Advocacy, Mason County

Sheri Hill, Early Childhood Policy Specialist

Phil Olson, Progress Center, Cowlitz County

Jan Wrathall, King County

Meg Strong, Snohomish County

Susan Sandall, University of WA, Special Education

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program Staff Who Participated

Karen Walker, Program Administrator

Kathy Blodgett, Program Consultant

Kathy Grant-Davis, Program Consultant

Wayne Vrona, Program Consultant

Linda Jennings, Program Specialist

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Introductions/Announcements:

Filling in for Chair Bonnie Sandahl, René Denman called the meeting to order.

René commented to the Council how much she had enjoyed the System Improvement Project meeting that was held in April, instead of the traditional SICC meeting. She was able to have another staff member from her area attend with her. They both felt that their comments were validated and listened to.

René then asked the Council to make introductions. Introductions were also made of the visitors in attendance.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the January minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to accept the July 28, 2010 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

II. ESIT Transition to Department of Early Learning

Bob Hamilton, Ph.D., Deputy Director of the Department of Early Learning (DEL) gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Council on the workings of DEL and how the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program fits in.

Highlights:

- DEL exists to support parents and families. There are 213 employees in 19 offices around the state.
- DEL vision: “Together, with parents and partners, we offer children world-class learning opportunities so they realize their full potential.”
- Why ESIT belongs at DEL:
 - Children with disabilities and developmental delays are, first and foremost, children!
 - Move supported by Governor, Legislature, DSHS Secretary, DEL Director
 - DEL has primary focus/interest in children and families birth to five
 - Systems/service delivery integration opportunities
 - Increase visibility of the program
 - Policy implications/opportunities
- Congratulations to ESIT on their improvements for Washington to meet the Part C requirements. DSHS Secretary Dreyfus received the Part C determination letter from OSEP in June.
- What’s next for ESIT:
 - Focus on maintaining Part C compliance status
 - Integration with DEL programs
 - Incorporation of ESIT into DEL strategic plan
 - Continued leadership for ESIT in state birth to three plan
 - Continue to consider governance integration strategies (ELAC, SICC, etc.)
 - Continue to consider ESIT’s role in implement the Early Learning Plan

III. ESIT Website

Kelli Bohanon, M.Ed., Assistant Director for Partnerships and Collaboration in DEL gave the Council a quick tour of the new ESIT web pages and where they’re located within the DEL website.

Highlights:

- www.del.wa.gov/development/esit
- ESIT program is listed under “Child Development, Health & Safety” tab. It provides links to:
 - Questions about early intervention
 - Early intervention services
 - Program eligibility
 - Getting help early matters
 - System Improvement Project
 - Interagency Coordinating Councils

- The website was reviewed by the SICC Family Leadership and Involvement Committee. They provided feedback and made a few recommendations which were incorporated.

IV. Infant Mental Health Presentation

Sheri Hill, Ph.D., is providing project coordination for ESIT's work on the System Improvement Project. Dr. Hill is a Washington State Early Childhood Policy Specialist and provides consultation services nationwide. She presented a PowerPoint on "Babies, Brains, and Relationships". The presentation focus was to help identify the many ways in which we can fold a relationship-based approach into our system to better meet the social-emotional and mental health needs of the children we serve.

V. Agency Updates

DSHS/Division of Developmental Disabilities, Linda Rolfe

On behalf of the SICC, René Denman presented Linda Rolfe with a certificate of appreciation for the many years of support that DSHS/DDD has provided to the SICC.

Debbie Couch, Individual and Family Services Program Manager will be representing DSHS/DDD at future SICC meetings.

Linda informed the Council that more cuts will be coming to the DDD program because of revenue reductions and the federal stimulus money will be decreased in the first half of 2011 and will be eliminated as of June 30, 2011. However, transition money for people leaving high school will be available. For the 2009-11 biennium, the legislature provided funding for 629 people to be added to a Waiver and 429 people to receive state-only employment supports. Work continues on aligning the DDD eligibility rules with birth to three.

Department of Health, Maria Nardella

Highlights:

- Lack of federal Medicaid funding will impact all agencies, causing cutbacks
- DOH is applying for a Home Visiting Federal grant
- CSHCN Epilepsy Grant ends in August.
- Washington Autism Implementation Grant is starting its third year of three.
- DOH is currently working with ESIT and others on establishing universal developmental screening for all young children in the state.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Sheila Ammons

Highlights:

- OSPI in process of updating website
- The 3rd Early Childhood Day will be held on August 12th. Sheila and Karen currently working with Sharon Walsh to develop presentations and workshops for the Early Childhood Day. Greg Abel, Nancy Hatfield, and Bob Morris will also be presenting at workshops.

Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Marijean Holland

Highlights:

- Working on several federal grants
- Ongoing issues with the federal health care reform plan. Washington already has many things in place that are included in the plan.
 - www.insurance.wa.gov
 - Children may be covered until age 26
 - Creates a pre-existing health pool for the uninsured, must have had NO coverage for prior six months
 - See website for list of diseases/diagnoses
 - No limits on lifetime, however, may put limits on “reasonable components”
 - No co-insurance for preventative, but may have limits
- New funding and grants are becoming available. A Consumer Ombudsman program will help individuals with the appeals process.

VI. Committee Reports

Family Leadership and Involvement Committee (FLIC), Amy Kocher

At yesterday’s meeting, the Committee again reviewed the ESIT web pages. The Committee would like DEL to know how much they appreciated the opportunity to provide input into the final product.

Highlights:

- Earlier in the year, FLIC proposed having Conversations with Families in Spokane. However, due to the current economic standing, FLIC would like to ask the Council if the location should be discussed and moved to King or Pierce County?

Motion: A motion was made to move the October SICC meeting to King or Pierce County. Motion did not pass.

Motion: A motion was made to hold the meeting in Spokane and video conference in rooms available on the west side. This motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to change Conversations with Families to a panel discussion during the SICC meeting. This motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to change the date of the January meeting from coinciding with the DDD Legislative reception in January, to coincide with the Early Learning Action Alliance in February. This motion was seconded and passed.

Public Policy Committee, Cecile Lindquist

Highlights:

- Met with FLIC yesterday

- WEECARE supports working with the Children's Alliance
- Cecile met with Randy Dorn on indirect rates. Only school districts who contract for services participate. The recommended OSPI rate is okay, it only becomes a problem when a school district goes above the recommended rate. The statewide average is 16%.
- The committee continues to work on these goals:
 - DDD/Part C eligibility alignment
 - Statewide accessibility to Medicaid billing
 - OSPI recommended indirect rates for districts contracting for service

VII. ESIT Update

Highlights:

- Karen Walker shared with the Council that ESIT will be physically moving to the DEL building in Lacey the week of July 26 – 30th.
- ESIT received its annual determination in June. ESIT received a “meets requirements” in the implementation of IDEA, Part C. The program continues to access federal technical assistance from the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) and the Western Regional Resource Center (WRRC) in strengthening its General Supervision and Monitoring System, as part of ongoing state improvement efforts.
- Karen provided the Council with the recently developed ESIT Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet is a quick reference tool that can be shared with stakeholders and others statewide. It shows the purpose and brief statistics of the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program.
- ESIT is currently working with the University of North Carolina (UNC) to develop a local lead agency self-monitoring tool. Several LLAs will be piloting teams trained to use the new tool.
- In April, Cassie Johnston retired as the ITEIP Parent Participation Coordinator. Debbie Jackson has assumed the coordinator position fulltime.
- Kathy Grant-Davis shared information regarding a System Improvement Project survey that is currently out to stakeholders statewide. The survey asks stakeholders to choose between three mission statements and to rank seven key principles. Comments are welcomed. Responses are due back by August 6th. A workgroup will convene on August 7th to tabulate the survey results.
- Kathy also shared with the Council a summary of emerging themes that was compiled from the April System Improvement Project meeting. The System Improvement Project has a webpage on the ESIT site to keep you updated. See: www.del.wa.gov/developmental/esit.
- The Procedural Safeguards handbook is now almost complete. ESIT has been working with UNC on this document. Training and forms will be available in November.
- The Cost Study contract has been awarded to Berk and Associates.
- An ARRA contract with DOH for expanded child find has been completed.
- An ARRA contract with WA PAVE for family training is being developed. The last ARRA project being considered is a statewide autism training project.
- Enhanced statewide training has been offered by WA Sensory Disabilities Services and TA contractor Kris Slentz.
- Karen shared the ARRA budget update.

VIII. Emerging Issues/Other Topics

- DEL Early Learning Plan

Meeting adjourned.

Next SICC Meeting Date:

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with a working lunch

Spokane Area - TBD